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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch.)

NORTH AMERICA

Maryland Weather Service. Vol. 3. Pp. 533. Pls. XXXIX. Figs. 15.
The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1910.

The Maryland Weather Service has set a standard of climatological work in the United States which does the State of Maryland, and all those who have been active in these investigations, the highest credit. In 1899 there appeared Vol. I, a splendid report of more than 550 pages, fully illustrated, containing "A General Report on the Physiography of Maryland," by Cleveland Abbe, Jr., and a "Report on the Meteorology of Maryland," by Professor Cleveland Abbe, Sr., E. J. Walz and Dr. O. L. Fassig—a volume which the present reviewer then characterized as "bahnbrechend." In 1907 came the second volume, of over 500 pages, containing a discussion of the climate and weather of Baltimore, by Dr. O. L. Fassig, so complete that it ranks with European climatological investigations, and has done much to relieve the unpleasant, but wholly deserved criticism which has so often been made against American meteorology by our European colleagues.

Now we have the third volume, which we welcome as a fitting companion to the other two. The present volume is a fine example of what the reviewer has often termed *economic climatology*. It shows clearly how important is a knowledge of the broader outlines of climatology in any investigation of plant life. Following the first two volumes in logical order of succession, we have in the third volume the application of the principles laid down in the other two. The fullest, the most effective, the highest use of climatological data is to be found, not in the mere tabulation and summarizing of these data, but in the study of the relation of the atmospheric conditions, which these data show to prevail, to man, to his industries, his use of the soil, his health, his general development. To many, probably, the admirable studies of "The Plant Life of Maryland," by Messrs. Forrest Shreve, M. A. Chrysler, Frederick H. Blodgett and F. W. Besley, which are included in this volume, will seem somewhat out of place under the title of Maryland Weather Service. But to us it seems that Professor William B. Clark and his associates have done a piece of work in economic climatology which as logically belongs among the investigations of a meteorological service as does a detailed study of the temperature, the rainfall, or the winds. We are glad to note, in the Preface, the statement: "Other lines of work suggested or inaugurated include a more detailed study of the swamp lands which are so intimately connected with the climatic conditions of the State that their study, in part at least, falls within the province of the State Weather

Service. The far-reaching influence of climate on the economic and social development of communities suggests investigations upon the relation of agricultural soils to physiographic and climatic features, and the bearing of climate upon health."

The volume contains an introduction, which is a summary of the climatic factors upon which plant growth depends; upon the topography of the State and its relation to vegetation and upon the mineralogy and soils of Maryland and their bearing upon plant growth. The titles of the chapters, *e. g.*, "Floristic Plant Geography of Maryland," "Ecological Plant Geography of Maryland," "The Relation of Natural Vegetation to Crop Possibilities," "Agricultural Features of Maryland" and "The Forests and their Products," show clearly the scope of the investigations and their practical bearings. As a whole, the third volume of the Maryland Weather Service is fully up to the standard of the two preceding volumes.

R. DEC. WARD.

SOUTH AMERICA

Across South America. An Account of a Journey from Buenos Aires to Lima by Way of Potosi. With notes on Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru. By Hiram Bingham. xvi and 405 pp., maps, illustrations and index. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 1911. \$3.50. 8½ x 5½.

The best part of this book, less than half its bulk, deals with Dr. Bingham's ride along the old trade route between Buenos Aires and Lima, from Quiaça to Oruro in southern Bolivia, and from Cuzco to Huancayo in Peru. His zeal for Spanish American history led him into many a weary day and night of dreary discomfort. Geography is not his topic, so we hardly find an attempt at adequate description of land or people. Apart from details of travel, his attention is directed to campaigns and routes of trade mainly. Yet we gather a distinct impression for the route traversed of fertile, sheltered valleys, sunk thousands of feet beneath bleak, rolling desert *paramos*, of a wretched people barely existing in a land that is poor and populated to the full, more densely than ever before. It is good to get this view, for Peru has been overpraised. But probably this view too might be overdone. There are great disadvantages under which people live in the Andine valleys, but some of them are not hopeless of improvement. Incidentally, the pains of Peruvian and Bolivian travel should inspire a certain respect for the disparaged peoples who undertake it unmurmuringly.

Two route plans well illustrate the itinerary, but the printer has interchanged them and put each in the wrong context (pp. 80 and 280). They show no topography. The pictures are good geographically, but uneven. Especially fine is the Uspallata Pass. The reader will feel the author's discomfort on the old overland trail.

Interwoven with this narrative are *impressions de voyage* along the author's way to the pan-American scientific congress at Santiago, Chile. The east coast of Brazil, the Argentine and Chile are made to fill 200 pages, with notes on somewhat familiar regions.

Dr. Bingham has little sympathy with the native Spanish Americans. The reviewer feels that they have many admirable qualities, less readily perceived by the casual visitor than their differences from us. Why should their willingness to wait till eleven for breakfast be disparaged? They are quite as early risers as we. As for their contention that they are *Americans*, while we are